

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A follower fall arrest device used with a fixed safety rope, and comprising:

- a body equipped with a securing system arranged to occupy either an active locking position in case of a fall or an inactive unlocking position enabling the user to progress along the rope in the ascending direction, or in the opposite direction when performing a controlled descent, said securing system comprising a support arm articulated on a first spindle of the body, a roller in the form of a cylindrical wheel mounted rotating free on a second spindle securedly attached to the support arm, and a centrifugal clutch mechanism arranged between a drive member of the roller and the support arm so as to occupy a disengaged position or an engaged position,

- and attachment means for connecting the body to a safety harness worn by the user,

wherein

- the peripheral surface of the roller is equipped with a plurality of studs arranged to cause rotation of the roller in the descending direction, and sliding on the rope in the ascending direction,

- the body comprises a straight U-shaped channel for passage of the rope, said channel having holes for passage of the attachment means, and

- the support arm is equipped with safety means designed to limit the pivoting travel of said arm in the inactive unlocking position and to prevent the karabiner from being fitted before the rope has been inserted in the channel.

2. (Original) The fall arrest device according to claim 1, wherein the clutch mechanism is arranged inside the roller and comprises at least one flyweight movable by centrifugal effect along a ramp according to the speed or the acceleration of the drive member of the roller.

3. (Original) The fall arrest device according to claim 2, wherein the flyweight is associated with a return spring urging the clutch mechanism to the disengaged position, the coupling threshold being reached when the centrifugal force is greater than the return force of the spring.

4. (Original) The fall arrest device according to claim 3, wherein the flyweight is cylindrical in shape and cooperates in the engaged position with a cylindrical rim of the support arm.

5. (Original) The fall arrest device according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means are formed by a karabiner passing through the holes of the body.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fall arrest device according to ~~claim 6~~claim 1, wherein the safety means comprise a stop securedly attached to the support arm and having one end equipped with a protuberance.

8. (Currently Amended) The fall arrest device according to ~~claim 6~~claim 1, wherein the safety means comprise a flap pivotally mounted on a spindle and comprising:

- an oblong opening inside which an operating lever securedly attached to the support arm moves,

- and a wing designed to press the rope against the bottom of the channel.